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Chairman: Mr. Ali ..... (Malaysia)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Ms. McLurg

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08-36729 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Agenda item 155: Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (A/62/749, A/62/781/Add.16 and A/62/785)

Agenda item 151: Financing of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (A/62/610, A/62/687, A/62/781/Add.18 and A/62/801)

Agenda item 148: Financing of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (A/62/560 and Corr.1, A/62/781/Add.17 and A/62/811)

1. **Mr. Sach** (Controller), introducing the performance report on the budget of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 (A/62/749), said that the General Assembly, in its resolution 60/122 B, had appropriated funding of $1,079,534,400 and that expenditure had amounted to $990,276,200, leaving an unencumbered balance of $89,258,200, representing an implementation rate of 91.7 per cent.

2. The main causes of the variance were the early withdrawal of one military contingent and 125 military observers following the completion of the UNMIS mandate in eastern Sudan, and reduced requirements owing to difficulties in the recruitment and retention of international staff. The General Assembly was invited to decide how to treat the unencumbered balance of $89,258,200, as well as other income amounting to $70,246,800.

3. Introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the budget for UNMIS for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 (A/62/785), he said that the General Assembly, in its resolution 61/289, had appropriated funding of $846,277,200, while the proposed budget amounted to $838,265,900. That represented a decrease of $8,011,300, or 0.9 per cent, compared with the approved resources for the 2007/08 period.

4. The main causes of the variance were the net reduction of 350 posts, primarily owing to the transfer of the majority of UNMIS operations in Darfur to the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), and the completion of most construction projects. The General Assembly was invited to appropriate $838,265,900 to maintain the Mission for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 and to assess that amount at a monthly rate of $69,855,491, should the Security Council decide to continue the Mission's mandate.

5. Introducing the performance report on the budget of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 (A/62/610), he said that the General Assembly, in its resolution 60/275, had appropriated funding of $217,962,000 and that expenditure had amounted to $210,192,000, leaving an unencumbered balance of $7,770,000, representing an implementation rate of 96.4 per cent.

6. The main causes of the variance were reduced requirements for United Nations police personnel, primarily owing to lower emplacement, rotation and repatriation costs, and reduced requirements with respect to international staff and United Nations Volunteers, owing to higher vacancy rates attributable to the overall downsizing of UNMIK and the delayed recruitment of personnel. The General Assembly was invited to decide how to treat the unencumbered balance of $7,770,000, as well as other income amounting to $5,695,200.

7. Introducing the note by the Secretary-General on financing arrangements for UNMIK for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 (A/62/801), he said that the General Assembly, in its resolution 61/285, had appropriated funding of $210,676,800 and that an additional requirement of $9,799,600, representing an increase of 5 per cent, was required for the maintenance of the Mission.

8. The main causes of the variance were the appreciation of the value of the euro with respect to the United States dollar, which had resulted in additional resource requirements for the payment of mission subsistence allowance, and the deployment, via airlift, of an additional unit of 125 special police personnel. The General Assembly was invited to appropriate and to assess $9,799,600 for the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 July 2008, in addition to the $210,676,800 already appropriated for the same period for the maintenance of the Mission under the provisions of resolution 61/285.

9. Introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the budget for UNMIK for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 (A/62/687), he said that the General Assembly, in its resolution 61/285, had appropriated funding of $210,676,800, while the

proposed budget amounted to $198,012,000. That represented a decrease of $12,664,800, or 6 per cent, compared with the approved resources for the 2007/08 period. The proposed budget reflected maintenance requirements for the Mission, with no proposed increases in staffing and no provision for the replacement or acquisition of new equipment and vehicles.

10. The main causes of the variance were increased requirements for mission subsistence allowance, owing to the appreciation in the value of the euro with respect to the United States dollar, and reduced requirements for vehicles, communications, information technology and other equipment, since no provision had been made in the budget for the replacement or acquisition of equipment. The General Assembly was invited to appropriate $198,012,000 to maintain the Mission for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009, and to assess that amount at a monthly rate of $16,501,000, should the Security Council decide to continue the Mission's mandate.

11. Introducing the performance report on the budget of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 (A/62/560 and Corr.1), he said that the General Assembly, in its resolution 61/248 A, had appropriated funding of $137,385,100, and that expenditure had amounted to $126,618,400, leaving an unencumbered balance of $10,766,700, representing an implementation rate of 92.2 per cent.

12. The main causes of the variance were reduced requirements for military personnel and reduced operational costs, which were mainly a result of the downsizing of military contingents pursuant to Security Council resolution 1741 (2007). The General Assembly was invited to decide how to treat the unencumbered balance of $10,766,700, as well as other income amounting to $7,245,700.

13. Introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the budget for UNMEE for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 (A/62/811), he said that the General Assembly, in its resolution 61/248 A, had appropriated funding of $113,483,400, while the proposed budget amounted to $100,367,400. That represented a decrease of $13,116,000, or 11.6 per cent, compared with the approved resources for the 2007/08 period.

14. The main causes of the variance were reduced requirements for military personnel, international staff and United National Volunteers, which were mainly attributable to the higher vacancy rates applied. The General Assembly was invited to appropriate $100,367,400 to maintain the Mission for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009, to assess $8,363,950 for the period from 1 to 31 July 2008, and to assess $92,003,450 at a monthly rate of $8,363,950, should the Security Council decide to continue the Mission's mandate.

15. **The Chairman** said that an advance unedited version of the Advisory Committee's report "Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007, financing arrangements for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 and proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo" was currently available, on an exceptional basis, in English only. The meeting would therefore be suspended until the report had been issued in all official United Nations languages as document A/62/781/Add.18.

The meeting was suspended at 3.25 p.m. and resumed at 3.45 p.m.

16. **Ms. McLurg** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the Advisory Committee's report on the financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 and proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 of UNMIS (A/62/781/Add.16), said that the Advisory Committee's recommendations would entail a reduction of $17,545,300 in the proposed budget of UNMIS for 2008/09. The Advisory Committee noted that a review of the Mission by a technical assessment team had been undertaken at the request of the Security Council. The team had found that the mandate of UNMIS was sufficiently broad to allow it to support the peace process in a wide range of tasks. The Advisory Committee also noted that the uncertainty with respect to the date of the 2009 elections would have an impact on the support to be provided by the Mission during the 2008/09 budget period.

17. The net decrease of 310 posts proposed for UNMIS reflected the abolition of 565 posts, as a result of the transfer of the Mission's Darfur operations to UNAMID, and the establishment of 255 new posts for

the Mission. With a few exceptions, the Advisory Committee had recommended approval of the Secretary-General's staffing proposals.

18. In view of the actual vacancy rates for international staff in the 2005/06 and 2007/08 periods, the Advisory Committee recommended that a 25-per-cent vacancy factor should be applied to the cost estimates for such staff instead of the proposed 21 per cent. However, the Fifth Committee might wish to seek clarification concerning the current vacancy rate, taking into account the transfer of staff to UNAMID.

19. The Advisory Committee noted that the commercial contracts for three of the Mission's 12 aircraft had expired in April and May of 2008. In the light of the delay experienced in establishing new commercial contracts to replace expiring ones, the Advisory Committee envisaged a slightly lower usage of budgeted flight hours and therefore recommended a reduction of $5 million under air transportation.

20. In view of the delay in the start date of the National Strategic Plan for Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration and the number of prerequisites that had yet to be fulfilled with respect to that plan, the Advisory Committee recommended a reduction of 25 per cent of the proposed requirements, or $5.9 million.

21. In connection with the financing of UNMIS for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007, the Advisory Committee recommended that the unencumbered balance of $89,258,200, as well as other income/adjustments in the amount of $70,246,800, should be credited to Member States in a manner to be determined by the General Assembly.

22. For the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009, the Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly should appropriate an amount of $820,720,600 to maintain the Mission for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009, should the Security Council decide to extend the Mission's mandate.

23. Introducing the Advisory Committee's report on the financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007, financing arrangements for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 and proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 of UNMIK (A/62/781/Add.18), she said that the Advisory Committee recommended approval of the proposed budget for UNMIK for the 2008/09 period, as well as the financing arrangements proposed by the Secretary-General for the 2007/08 period.

24. The Secretary-General had indicated that, pending guidance from the Security Council, the United Nations would continue to operate on the understanding that resolution 1244 (1999) remained in force and constituted the legal framework for the mandate of UNMIK and that the Mission would continue to implement its mandate in the light of the evolving circumstances.

25. With regard to the 2007/08 period, the Advisory Committee had been informed that, as at 2 June 2008, UNMIK had cash resources of $6,600,000. The Mission's available cash balance therefore would not cover the three-month operating cash reserve of $56,068,800.

26. The Advisory Committee had been informed that efforts were being made to retain qualified and experienced staff and to address other staff concerns. Those measures were outlined in the Advisory Committee report.

27. The Advisory Committee recommended that the unencumbered balance of $7,770,000, as well as other income and adjustments in the amount of $5,695,200, for the period ended 30 June 2007 should be credited to Member States in a manner to be determined by the General Assembly. In view of the Mission's cash position, the Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly should appropriate and assess the amount of $9,799,600 for the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008, in addition to the amount of $210,676,800 already appropriated for the same period under General Assembly resolution 61/285. Lastly, the Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly should appropriate and assess the amount of $198,012,000 to maintain the Mission for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009.

28. Introducing the Advisory Committee's report on the financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 and proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 of UNMEE (A/62/781/Add.17), she said that the Advisory Committee had recommended that the General Assembly should appropriate $100,367,400 to maintain the Mission for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009. Furthermore, the Advisory Committee had recommended an assessment of $50,183,850 for the

six-month period from 1 July to 31 December 2008. The Advisory Committee had further recommended that the Secretary-General should be requested to submit a report to the General Assembly no later than 30 November 2008 on progress in the implementation of the budget, in order to provide for a revised appropriation and a further assessment, if required.

29. The Advisory Committee's recommendation was based on the fact that the Mission's mandate would expire on 31 July 2008 and there had been significant changes in its operating environment. The Advisory Committee felt that it was prudent to ensure sufficient funding for UNMEE and to revert to the matter of the Mission's budget based on the decisions to be taken by the Security Council with respect to the Mission's future mandate.

30. **Ms. Ahlenius** (Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services), introducing the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on the comprehensive audit of UNMIK mandate implementation (A/62/807), said that OIOS had conducted the audit at the request of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for UNMIK. The report consolidated three OIOS audit reports focusing on the Mission's mandates with respect to: establishing the Kosovo Police Service and an independent and multi-ethnic judiciary, and reforming the correctional system in Kosovo; performing basic civil administrative functions, promoting the establishment of self-government in Kosovo, and promoting human rights and ensuring the safe return of refugees and displaced persons; and developing the legal, institutional and policy framework for Kosovo's economic reconstruction and development.

31. The audit had identified a number of failures and deficiencies in implementing the mandates. In particular, OIOS had fundamental concerns regarding the management of the transfer of responsibilities to the central Government ministries and local municipalities. In that regard, UNMIK had not established minimum criteria for assessing the preparedness of central Government ministries and local municipalities before the transfer of civil administration competencies, and had failed to put effective mechanisms in place to monitor and determine whether the ministries and municipalities had adequately assumed the competencies transferred from UNMIK.

32. UNMIK had transferred more than 80 per cent of the competencies for law enforcement to the Kosovo Police Service. The Mission had also formally established judicial systems, including a correctional system, and those institutions had been "Kosovarized" to a large extent. However, there was a lack of effective leadership and managerial skills, which had limited the Mission's ability to accomplish the mandated goals and objectives in an efficient and effective manner. The staffing levels of the Kosovo Police Service and the Kosovo Correctional Service had been built up on an ad hoc basis, the relevant UNMIK regulation had not been promptly amended to provide clear goals for the required multi-ethnic composition of the judiciary in conformity with the Kosovo Constitutional Framework and there were continuing weaknesses in the judicial system. Moreover, the total number of pending court cases, which had stood at 160,238 as of March 2007, was alarming in its magnitude and implications.

33. Significant deficiencies had been identified in the governance mechanisms and internal control processes of the Kosovo Trust Agency, which had major responsibilities for developing Kosovo's economy. UNMIK and the Kosovo Trust Agency Board of Directors had operated the Agency in a way that did not show due regard for adherence to the Kosovo Trust Agency Regulation, corporate governance principles, financial fiduciary responsibilities or public accountability requirements. For example, the Board of Directors had contravened the Regulation and the Agency's corporate governance principles and guidelines by approving the appointment of politically active members to the Board of Directors of the Kosovo Energy Corporation. Furthermore, the spreadsheet-based financial management system was inappropriate for the size and complexity of Kosovo Trust Agency operations, and unacceptable for an organization that had been operating for five years. The financial management system was also widely exposed to error, potential fraud and mismanagement owing to weaknesses in fundamental accounting controls. Those deficiencies had resulted in a weak corporate governance framework that represented a significant risk to the effective performance and financial sustainability of the Agency and the enterprises under its administration. Urgent attention was required from UNMIK in those areas.

34. OIOS had made a total of 69 recommendations to address the deficiencies identified in the audit reports issued to the UNMIK Administration in December 2007. The most critical recommendations were shown in the annex to the report under consideration. OIOS was concerned that the UNMIK Administration had not provided detailed comments in response to each of the recommendations but rather had commented that the recommendations did not take into account the current political reality and the current phase of the Mission. The UNMIK Administration had argued that many recommendations could therefore be considered as a basis for lessons learned for new missions rather than as something that could be effectively implemented at the current stage of UNMIK. However, OIOS did not agree with that assessment. Its recommendations addressed deficiencies and risks that required prompt action by UNMIK, and the UNMIK Administration was responsible for their timely implementation. Consequently, OIOS had recommended that the Secretary-General should bring the audit results and recommendations to the attention of the Security Council.

35. **Mr. Harland** (Department of Peacekeeping Operations), referring to the OIOS report on the comprehensive audit of UNMIK mandate implementation (A/62/807), recalled that the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for UNMIK had requested OIOS to undertake the audit with a view to identifying lessons learned and best practices. UNMIK had facilitated the OIOS audit and had provided all the necessary logistical arrangements for the OIOS visit to Kosovo from 29 May to 13 August 2007. The audit's preliminary conclusions had been discussed with the UNMIK Administration at an exit conference held on 9 August 2007.

36. In a letter dated 27 August 2007 from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for UNMIK addressed to OIOS, the Special Representative had raised concerns that the audit had covered only a selection of components of the Mission and had not taken into account the strategic coordination that had systematically taken place within UNMIK, as well as with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, international partners and the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government in Kosovo.

37. On 25 March 2008, UNMIK and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations had been given a copy of the draft final report, with a request for comments by 7 April 2008. In response, UNMIK had raised concerns that the report had not taken into account substantive inputs previously provided by it to OIOS. On 7 April 2008, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for UNMIK had written to the Secretary-General expressing his concern that the audit report had not achieved its intended aim and had not taken into account the challenges that had been overcome or the successes achieved by UNMIK since 10 June 1999. In response, the Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services had submitted a note to the Chef de Cabinet dated 21 May 2008, containing the comments of OIOS on the matter.

38. The OIOS report and the comments of both OIOS and UNMIK were currently being reviewed by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. A decision would be made on how best to proceed in consultation with all the parties involved. Since the matter was under review, the current statement was being provided for information purposes only.

39. **Mr. Abdelmannan** (Sudan), referring to UNMIS, reiterated the concerns expressed at the Committee's 46th meeting about the late issuance of documents. He regretted that that problem had hindered the due consideration of the report in question.

40. He thanked the international community for its tremendous efforts in concluding the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and expressed the hope that such efforts would continue until peace had been established throughout the Sudan. He appreciated the work involved in developing a draft budget for the Mission, but wished that the related report had better reflected the texts establishing the Mission's mandate. Erroneous political concepts had been included in the report, even though they were unrelated to the resources and administrative organization of the Mission. There were also several errors to be corrected in the report, such as the reference to a referendum on the final status of northern and eastern Sudan, rather than just southern Sudan. The report should be changed to reflect the reality of the situation as laid out in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. He hoped that the progress thus far achieved would be maintained and even strengthened through the provision of the necessary resources; such resources should not be shifted to UNAMID, except in areas of coordination and complementarity between the two operations.

41. The improvement of the Mission's structure was an ongoing process linked to the progress achieved in reaching the Mission's objectives as well as developments in its area of operation. Therefore, the restructuring of the Mission as suggested in the report of the Secretary-General should be based on variable factors. The report, however, in justifying its restructuring proposals, highlighted stable factors such as the size of the Sudan, collaboration and coordination with Sudanese interlocutors, and distribution of resources between the Mission's major focus areas, none of which were likely to have changed since the beginning of the Mission. In the same report, the budgeted vacancy rate for national staff was much higher in the 2008/09 budget than in the previous budget, whereas it had been expected that, as the Mission gained experience, there would be fewer vacancies, especially among national staff. His delegation was disappointed that the proposed budget did not include an increase in resources for quick-impact projects, mainly to support disarmament, demobilization and reintegration initiatives, given the importance of such initiatives and their impact on the local population.

42. **Mr. Holovka** (Serbia) expressed great concern over the report of OIOS on the comprehensive audit of UNMIK mandate implementation, which pointed to substantial failures and deficiencies. The hasty transfer of competencies without the establishment of effective monitoring mechanisms had already aggravated the situation, and could only continue to do so. If urgent action was not taken to eliminate such deficiencies, which stemmed primarily from the weak governance of the Mission, the implementation of the mandate would not be feasible. The high level of vacancies was also a source of concern.

43. It was crucial to provide the Mission with adequate resources in a timely manner. To that end, his delegation fully endorsed the recommendations of the Advisory Committee and supported the adoption of the budget for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009, as proposed by the Secretary-General. It further supported the appropriation and assessment of additional resources for the current budget.*

* He expressed regret, however, regarding the late introduction of the report in question, which would substantially limit the Committee's discussion on all administrative elements.

Agenda item 140: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (*continued*)

Contingent-owned equipment (A/62/774 and Corr.1 and A/62/851; A/C.5/62/06)

44. **The Chairman** drew the Committee's attention to a letter dated 22 February 2008 from the Chairman of the 2008 Working Group on Contingent-Owned Equipment addressed to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee (A/C.5/62/26).

45. **Mr. Mutiso** (Director, Field Budget and Finance Division, Department of Field Support) said that, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 59/298, the Secretariat had convened a meeting of the 2008 Working Group on Contingent-Owned Equipment in February 2008 to carry out a comprehensive review of reimbursement rates and to update the categories of major equipment, self-sustainment and medical support services.

46. The overall impact of all changes in reimbursement rates, including the addition of new services recommended by the Working Group, would result in an increase of approximately 2.7 per cent in the contingent-owned equipment portion of the Organization's peacekeeping budget, representing an annual recurrent cost of $24.5 million.

47. The report of the Secretary-General on reformed procedures for determining reimbursement to Member States for contingent-owned equipment (A/62/774 and Corr.1) presented the cost implications of implementing the recommendations of the 2008 Working Group. The action to be taken by the General Assembly was set out in section IV of the report. Should the General Assembly approve, with effect from 1 July 2008, the recommendation of the 2008 Working Group, additional resource requirements estimated at $57.7 million would be reported in the context of individual peacekeeping operations' financial performance reports for the 2008/09 period, at which time additional appropriations could be sought from the General Assembly, if necessary. As indicated in annex II of the report (A/62/774/Corr.1), the amount of $24.5 million represented the increase in all reimbursable costs, in addition to $33.2 million in non-recurrent costs of an operational nature, to be incurred if and when troop- or police-contributing countries deployed an additional 10 per cent overstock of major equipment.

48. **Ms. McLurg** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/62/851), said that the Advisory Committee recommended approval of the recommendations of the 2008 Working Group on Contingent-Owned Equipment as well as the action proposed by the Secretary-General in paragraph 40 of his report.

49. The Advisory Committee agreed to the recommendation to increase the overstock of major equipment from 10 per cent to 20 per cent, which would result in additional reserves to be utilized in the event that equipment needed to be replaced. Nevertheless, the Advisory Committee noted that establishing a ceiling of 20 per cent for equipment overstock could result in significant financial implications for the Organization.

50. The Advisory Committee welcomed the 2008 Working Group's recommendation to introduce an additional element in calculating mission factors, namely a revision of the decision sheet to take into account the potential for hostile engagement of United Nations forces by unidentified parties. The Advisory Committee trusted that the Secretariat would undertake a timely review of that factor in all peacekeeping missions. It also fully supported the 2008 Working Group's recommendation to provide Internet access to troops and police with a view to improving their overall welfare, and trusted that the relevant guidelines and policy document would be finalized expeditiously.

51. Lastly, the Advisory Committee concurred with the Working Group's recommendation to increase the recreational leave allowance for military and police personnel from 7 to 15 days for each six-month tour of duty, as well as its request that the legislative bodies should consider the issue, as it came under troop costs, rather than under contingent-owned equipment.

52. **Mr. Thomas** (Antigua and Barbuda), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that he welcomed the recommendations of the Working Group on reimbursement rates for major equipment, self-sustainment and medical support services and the procedures for carrying out future reimbursement rate reviews. However, he was disappointed that the Secretariat had informed the sub-working group that, contrary to the assertion made in the Secretary-General's reports, the approved recommendations would result in an increase of less than 2.7 per cent. The Group of 77 and China had supported the recommendations in order to achieve a consensus; however, the recommendations fell short of its expectations, given continued inflation and the inherent sustained price increase, which had resulted in an unmatched cost burden for the countries members of the Group.

53. Delay and uncertainty in the reimbursement of troop and contingent-owned equipment costs adversely affected the ability of current and potential troop-contributing countries to effectively participate in United Nations peacekeeping operations. In that context, he urged all Member States to pay their assessed contributions to peacekeeping operations in full, on time and without conditions.

54. He welcomed the initiative recommended by the Working Group to provide troops and police officers deployed in peacekeeping operations with Internet access as a new self-sustainment subcategory, as it would contribute to the overall welfare of troops. Although the interim reimbursement rate agreed on and recommended by the Working Group was $2.76 per person per month, the Group of 77 and China considered that the rate should be higher for certain missions, given the actual costs borne by Governments to provide such access to their troops.

55. He endorsed the recommendation to increase the recreational leave allowance from 7 to 15 days; since the issue fell under the umbrella of troop costs, he looked forward to reviewing the rate at which that allowance should be paid to members of military contingents and formed police units. He also supported a revision of the decision sheet to include potential hostile action as an additional element in calculating mission factors, as well as the welfare recommendations.

56. Recalling that, in 2004, the sub-working group had not been able to reach a consensus on the methodology for reviewing troop cost reimbursement, and that, in 2005, the Secretary-General had issued a comprehensive report on the troop cost reimbursement methodology (A/60/725) at the request of the General Assembly, he noted with regret that the Advisory Committee had yet to submit a report on the issue.

Agenda item 153: Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East (*continued*)

(b) United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (*continued*) (A/C.5/62/L.47)

Draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.47

57. **Mr. Thomas** (Antigua and Barbuda), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, introduced the draft resolution.

58. **The Chairman** said that action would be taken on the draft resolution at a subsequent meeting.

Organization of work

59. **Ms. Tavares-Walsh** (Department for General Assembly and Conference Management), responding to the issue raised by the delegation of France at the Committee's 48th meeting, said that the late submission of most peacekeeping budget-related documents and their often excessive length was the cause of the delay in their processing by her Department. Despite her Department's efforts to improve other departments' compliance with submission deadlines, such compliance had steadily declined with regard to peacekeeping financing reports.

60. Although Member States continued to urge the Department to rationalize expenditures, overtime costs had been incurred in nearly all processing areas in order to meet the demanding deadlines of late and lengthy submissions. The Department's Central Planning and Coordination Service had been doing its utmost to mitigate the enormous impact of the late submission of documents through close coordination with the secretariats of the Fifth Committee and the Advisory Committee, adjusting processing schedules when feasible. At no time had the Department established schedules or prioritized jobs without prior discussion with the Fifth Committee secretariat and the agreement of the Bureau.

The meeting rose at 4.45 p.m.